

# C A A C E

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

March 1, 2010

Testimony on the following bills:

Raised Bill 5165: AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Raised bill 266: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING TRANSFERRING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO THE COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM.

Submitted by: David Downes, Vice President, Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education and Director of Adult and Continuing Education for the West Hartford Public Schools

*The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education, a statewide professional organization representing providers of mandated adult education.*

Representative Mushinsky, Senator Kissel and members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee:

The Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education would like to comment on two bills Raised Bill 5165, and Raised Bill 266

Raised Bill 5165: Section 3 of this bill allows students in regular education to take two of their high school graduation credits by, in effect, taking up to four classes in the mandated adult education program, a program established by law to provide education to persons 16 and over who are not attending regular K-12 education. The current regulation in this regard states that high school students may take one "adult education activity" for credit as a part of their high school program of study. The proposed bill in effect doubles the number of adult education courses allowed to be taken by regular education students. For a few adult education programs with the capacity to accept additional mainstream students needing additional credits to graduate, this bill may not be an issue and may be seen as an additional educational benefit to the overall local

educational system. For many adult education programs, however, which deal with limited capacities and funds in their programs, this expansion of demand for services will mean a diminished capacity to serve their current mandated student population, without supplemental resources. Furthermore, adult education programs are not equipped to provide the many support services and parent communication available in the regular high school program. Regular education students are better served by other means of earning credit within the high school purview, such as independent study, college credit and online course programs, summer school and community work-study credit. The option of using mandated adult education courses to earn regular high school credit should be clarified and continue to be limited to the accepted interpretation of an "adult education activity" as at most two semesters of an adult education academic course.

Raised Bill 266: This bill asks that the Commissioners examine the feasibility of transferring responsibility for adult education. It is not clear from the bill whether the intent is to target certain adult education programs or all programs known as "adult education." We believe that the bill refers only to courses of study currently located in the technical high schools that are reserved for adults, such as the licensed practical nurse programs mentioned in the bill. Adult education in the state of Connecticut more commonly refers to the system of mandated courses and services such as high school equivalency diploma programs, English as a second language (ESL), citizenship and basic skills education, administered and funded by local Boards of Education, the State Department of Education and federal or other grants.

This bill should be clarified by referring to "adult education programs administered by the state technical high school system."

Thank you for your attention to these matters.